

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 are pending in the application and are rejected.

Claims 1-53 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson (2002/0087622) in view of Redd et al. (6,646,754).

Claims 23-31 are rejected for the same reasons as claims 22 and 2-10.

The present invention provides a method which allows a user having limited or no computer equipment to be able to compose a multimedia media at a first location and when satisfied have the multimedia media produced at a second location. A problem that exists with prior art system is that a user which is an ordinary consumer does not have the benefit to provide sophisticated equipment to create multimedia media. Nor does a user have necessarily all the desired media available at their location for producing of a particular multimedia product. However, it is also important that a user be able to know what is being ordered prior to it actually being ordered. The present invention provides for the use of resources in a distributed system, which allows the machine and/or computer system having reduced or less than ideal capabilities to author a multimedia product using digital resources locally or that reside in a remote location to produce high quality multimedia products not available in a cost or efficient manner in a consumer setting.

In particular, as set forth in independent claim 1, software provided at a first location to select and arrange a plurality of digital images in a user identified order to produce a multimedia composition comprised of the plurality of digital images. The present invention is not directed to ordering a product of a single digital image file, but to a composition that comprises a plurality of digital images. Thus, the software provided at the first location has the ability to compose a plurality of digital images for use in making a multimedia product. However, the first location does not have the ability to produce the desired multimedia media. Claim 1 further goes on to say that the software at the first location transforms the multimedia composition to produce a digital multimedia bit-stream and then allows viewing at the first location. Thus, the user can at the first location view what the multimedia product or composition will look like when it is produced on the multimedia product. Claim 1 then further goes on to

generate an order to create the multimedia media (product) that is comprised of the digital multimedia bit-stream. In section (e) of claim 1, the multimedia bit-stream is sent to a second location remote from the first location along with the order. As can be seen in claim 1, the claim allows for the composing of the multimedia composition. However, the composition is not produced at the first location, but is forwarded on to a second remote location where the order for the multimedia media is fulfilled. This is not taught or suggested by the prior art.

In particular, the Anderson reference merely discloses the ability to access media that is located at a remote location. There is no teaching or suggestion of composing a multimedia composition at the first location nor does it teach or suggest the reviewing of the bit-stream of the multimedia prior to sending and then generating or to create the multimedia comprised of the multimedia bit-stream, which is then fulfilled at the remote location. In paragraphs 17, 24, 27 and 29 and Figure 1, the Anderson reference merely refers to the browser to access images stored on a photo-service site. There is no teaching or suggestion of composing a multimedia bit-stream at the first location as taught and claimed by Applicant. Paragraph 24 merely discloses the ability for integrating services at the photo-service site that are accessed by the user of the client device. Paragraph 27 merely discloses the uploading of digital images and storage where they are received for display. In paragraph 36, it simply discloses that these digital images may comprise types such as movies, sound annotations, animations and clip art. None of these locations, including items 202, 204 and Figure 4, discuss or suggest composing of a plurality of digital images to produce a multimedia bit-stream at the first location as taught and claimed by Applicant.

The Examiner uses Redd for disclosing the generating of an order. However, what is being ordered is simple prints of images stored at the remote location. There is no teaching or suggestion of producing a multimedia bit-stream at the first location that comprises a plurality of digital images that are forwarded to the second location for producing of a digital multimedia media as taught and claimed. As illustrated by numeral 404, the user is selecting print parameters. There is no teaching or suggestion of composing of a multimedia media or use of a digital multimedia bit-stream comprising a composition of plurality of digital images as taught and claimed by Applicant. Claims 2-10 depend, at least ultimately, on independent claim 1 and are therefore, patentably distinct for the

same reason. Claim 11 is a second independent claim similar to claim 1 and is patentably distinct for the same reasons discussed therein.

The next independent claim, claim 21 is also directed to a method producing a multimedia media wherein a first program at a first location is used for selecting and arranging a plurality of digital images in a user-defined order to produce a multimedia composition, comprised of a plurality of digital images. The composition is then sent to a second location remote from the first location, wherein at the second location the multimedia composition is produced in a bit-stream and then retransmitted back to the first location where the user can access the digital bit-stream at the first location to view the digital bit-stream. Once having viewed the order, the user can generate an order request to create the multimedia media comprised of the digital bit-stream and then transmitting the order request. Claim 21 is again distinguishable from the Anderson reference in that there is required a composition being produced at the first location and then the fulfilling of the composition that occurs at a second remote location. It is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is also patentably distinct over Anderson for many of the same reasons as previously discussed.

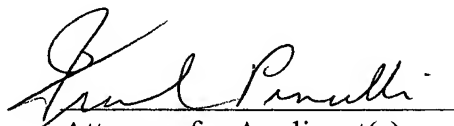
The next independent claim, claim 22, is directed to a method of producing a multimedia media, wherein a user at a first location accesses a thumbnail version of each of a plurality of digital images located at a second remote location from the first, wherein the user at the first location to select and arrange at least one of the plurality of digital images in a user-identified order to produce a multimedia composition script. Here again, the composition of the script is at the first location. The script is then transmitted to a service provider at the second location, wherein the service provider produces a digital bit-stream, which is in turn retransmitted back to the user at the first location, such that the user at the first location can view the digital bit-stream that has been generated by the service provider at the remote location and then the user generating an order request to create the multimedia media which is transmitted to the service provider for fulfillment of the order request. Here again, the order of composition is produced at the first location, wherein the composition bit-stream is produced at the second remote location and then forwarded to the user for review and if appropriate, the ordering of an appropriate multimedia media. Anderson clearly does not teach or suggest the invention of claim 22. Claim 33, the next

independent claim is directed to a method of producing a multimedia media, wherein at a first location there occurs accessing of the thumbnail versions of a plurality of digital images located at a second location. The software at the first location, again, selects and arranges at least a plurality of digital images in a user-defined order to produce a multimedia composition script. The rest of the claim 32 is very similar to claim 31 and is therefore, patentably distinct for the same reasons previously discussed with regard to claim 31.

Claim 33 is directed to yet another method of producing a multimedia media, wherein a service-provider is provided with a plurality of digital images and the user at the first location, again uses software at the first location to produce a multimedia composition script, which is transmitted to the service-provider at the second location, wherein a digital bit-stream is produced and retransmitted to the user at the first location for the user to view. The user, again, generates an order request to create the multimedia media, which is then transmitted to the service provider for fulfillment of the order request. Again, claim 33 is patentably distinct for reasons previously discussed. The last independent claim, claim 33 is directed again to a method of producing a multimedia media, which includes the steps of accessing a thumbnail version of at least one of a plurality of digital images located at a second remote location from the first location and using software at the first location to select and arrange at least a plurality of digital images in a user-defined order to produce a multimedia composition script. Here again, in claim 43, it is patentably distinct for the same reasons discussed with regard to claim 33.

In summary, Applicant respectfully submits that the Anderson and Redd references fail to teach or suggest the invention as currently set forth. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's allowance of the claims as currently presented.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank Pincelli", is written over a horizontal line.

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